

1988 Presidential Elections post mortem - AlternativeViews-TV talks with John R. Stockwell (1989)

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⌵ Alternative Views

371. ELECTION '88 POST MORTEM: JOHN STOCKWELL (1989)

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Former CIA case officer John R. Stockwell looks at the 1988 presidential elections. He analyzes the amazing loss by the Democrats of a seemingly certain victory. He also assesses what a Bush administration can be, particularly when so many people inside and outside the government, at home and abroad, have knowledge of so much damaging information about Bush's past. Stockwell views the elections from the power elite and ruling class perspective in which we operate under a single party system which is split in two, with both parties being controlled by powerful ruling class institutions and individuals. He places Dukakis' performance within this framework.

Recorded December 10, 1988

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⌵ John R. Stockwell, former CIA case officer

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Stockwell

⌵ United States presidential election, 1988

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1988

This movie is part of the collection: Alternative Views

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in the meantime this establishment this party that we have the single party state this fraternity that runs this country that has two chapters a Republican and a Democrat one a little bit more liberal than the other one one more conservative representing them the big business interests more directly that's the Republicans in

terms of their interest that's the 18 but they always have the b-team that they can run out a Jimmy Carter when Richard Nixon makes the nation too angry or the nation gets too riled at the Vietnam War or something like that this is where they produced Michael Dukakis but then they realized they did not have to go with the B team the people didn't care they didn't have to give the nation a B team so they went ahead and went with the 18 which was George Bush ie they concluded eventually that they could Teflon eyes Bush despite all of this incredible activity and selling to the nation and they did former CIA official John Stockwell provides his analysis of the recent presidential elections you'll hear a perspective which you won't find on the regular media and it's going to happen right now on alternative views

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hello welcome to alternative years we're very happy to have John Stockwell with us to discuss the implications of the election to the presidency of George Bush will be discussing out with John today John is a peace activist a writer a lecturer an ex-cia agent and now a prominent critic of the CIA who currently is working on two books one on the Vietnam War and another on the arms race he's also been commissioned by Oliver Stone to write a screenplay about Central America and has been very busy lecturing traveling around the country and doing research since we last saw an alternative years so welcome back John it looks like our crew didn't show up so I'm going to have to do the camera cameras as well as participate in this okay I will jump in whenever you feel like Van or any telling right so John I think everyone is concerned about what the election of George Bush will mean for American foreign and domestic policy and what a Bush presidency would be like we're currently in the period a honeymoon period where all the media are just celebrating and being nice to him all the politicians are snickering up to them so let's give a critical perspective on the Bush presidency that we really haven't heard from our corrupt mainstream media it's a tough one this is of course the calm before the storm perhaps we have so little to go on man's been a vice-president politician the responsible people say give him a

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the responsible people say give him a break let's wait and see right he does my own position and then they say well he is such a comedian but he could go either way so to speak and they point out that he was historically more moderate than Reagan who has always had a wild hair up his nose but I personally am more of the school that I believe we do know a lot about this man in fact we know some things about him that are much more significant and frightening than what we knew about Ronald Reagan Ronald Reagan was of course a committed who was known to have a slightly defective and that's the area that was the case and proved it and lived up to and had some harsh policies when he was governor of California but Bush the CI directorship where he made these contacts I worked for him you know I witnessed personally his supervising CI is covering up of illegal activity at the end of the end-goal operation and early nineteen seventy six and he was actually fending off the hostile Congress instead of investigating and firing the perpetrators of crimes he was fending off the FBI in the Congress on at least three or four major CI criminal activities what were those activities well one was the Angolan operation where we had broken a number of laws much like the Iran Contra and the Boland kind of laws and then we had conspired cover up the breaking of the laws and I mean literally we sat around the big oak tables and discussed the law we went down to the library and read up on the law wait and then things like I remember one session reminding the boss you know don't contradict yourself last week he said you know don't contradict yourself this week if senator so-and-so brings up a certain issue and this this one he just plowed right into that one and he was just telling the Senate you know the Congress say I don't know I wasn't here but I'm sure that I just

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wasn't here but I'm sure that I just find it very difficult to believe but we'll look into it thoroughly she'll just give me some slack and he was reassuring them and with with you know him patting him on the head they backed off and just never got back to it he was also doing the same thing about the assassination of Patrice Lumumba which was being investigated in that cycle and also the Chilean operation a killing you know the

track one track to Alistair and killing of Salvador Allende in Chile and he was fending off an investigation of that on in the FBI staff the Justice Department was investigating some of the mercenaries who had been involved in the CIA's Angola program and they were asking us specifically which ones had worked for us and in what cassadee's and a young attorney showed up from a general counsel's office responding to Bush's supervision policies and actually went through my files and purged documents that he thought would be legally incriminating if we were subpoenaed you know if we were investigated and all of that was a thorough indication of Bush's policies as I witnessed them beyond that we have an incredible record that we will get into in greater depth as we chat here now of the connections that he picked up when he was CI director so we have not only Noriega but we have a dozen are dozens of Noriega x' who have blackmail control of this man now one would like to give anyone the benefit of the doubt and say hopefully they're going to be more moderate but this man even wished he to be more moderate on CI activities would have an uphill fight because that establishment has got so much dirt on him and and I personally don't believe he really has any desire or instincts to

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he really has any desire or instincts to withdraw from them I think he's I think he sees a secret world that that goes back to that Skull and Bones thing at Yale that kind of secret elite manipulation the Knights of Malta I think he's I think psychologically he's just deeply committed to a view of the world where there's elite insiders who are well above the normal laws of men and God you look at see who's been the heads of the CIA all these years and it's been people who've been right up at the at the top and intermingled interlocked with the top people in the American power structure it seems that that's such an important part running an intelligence service that the establishment to people don't want any Outsiders doing it what is the implication then of having an ex-cia director the President of the United States this is the first time this has ever happened that someone who is so deeply involved in intelligence activities is actually the president well it's a giant step towards the national security state is what it is that's it's a huge victory for the national security establishment and always remember that although it's it goes far beyond the CIA but the CIA was created in the National Security Act of 1947 and the national security establishment has the CIA as one of the inner chapters so to speak and have one of its directors bought into the thing totally and controlled by all of the illegal activities that he's been privy to and part of it means just that we we've been watching and worrying and people have been writing books for 15 years about the national security state and this is a giant step in that direction it's wait a minute does that mean that the CIA will have much more

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mean that the CIA will have much more influence in current policy than they would have otherwise and the bush has this mentality the sort of conspiratorial covert action interventionist view of the world that these people have how do you think that might translate practically into a increased role for the CIA or increased influence you get into some nuances or personalities if you will over all the establishment that the CIA represents is much stronger having Bush as as president however it's difficult to imagine the CI being more dominant and active than it was under William Casey for the simple reason that the man was wild as in a Wild Bill Casey and he was running poorly thought out very aggressive operations in every corner of the world now Bush has decided to go with William Webster a Webster is knows the head of the head of the CIA which means right yes which means the head of the intelligence community because the CI Director coordinates all of the intelligence in the seven bureaucracies Webster is no saint it's not that you know that it makes you feel reassured in fact here an COINTELPRO to the FBI under Reagan when they were harassing the people who were supporting that are lobbying against the Contras and he but what's the most ominous thing about this man is that the establishment exonerated him totally he was permitted by the Congress by the establishment by the the Washington Post media at the end of that thing when it was exposed of taking the idiots out the stupidity out the [___] out of saying well it's true I was director of the FBI but I wasn't aware of any of these activities and you know the Admiral ship sinks and he said

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know the Admiral ship sinks and he said well I wouldn't wear it had a hole in this sounds like the Ronald Reagan deficient management style was simply lying on Bush Bush used the same out he sat in 17 meetings of National Security Council in which they discussed the Iran Contra scandal and he says he doesn't remember there ever having talked about it there's also another interesting thing that he said when they asked him about Oliver North on one of the TV things he said well they made two or three mistakes the fact that it was all illegal never even faze him it doesn't making it back to Webster though it's it's interesting to note that two levels of the the intelligence or national security establishment not the community are the hard you know the professional paid professionals the on-duty professionals but the community has spoken out at two levels one at the Henry Kissinger level they've gotten together and published a paper in which they have spelled out policies that that Bush should follow which which speak pretty openly of brutality towards a third world and then at a level below that the Georgetown professors where McFarlane went to work after he left the White House were Ray Klein and others operate from where they publish these books intelligence requirements for the 80s and now they've come out for the 90s these be Robert Gates the former deputy director these people have come out with publications and statements and and radio interviews and why not vigorously protesting Webster as CIA director because they say he is soft on covert action he's not aggressive enough yet we know that Bush is such a believer in covert action that at least it's unlikely there'll be that much of a curtailing of covert action well it

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curtailing of covert action well it again we're getting into new wants they're going to run operations for sure it's a question of how many and how wild and then at a certain point you see it's almost in the world's interest God God knows this is a perverse kind of logic but it's almost in the world's interest to have a William Casey as opposed to William Webster because Casey would go so far that he would self-destruct right he was truly crazy wild and so these things would be exposed and there would be a reaction that Congress would clash with him endlessly he would mining the harbor's and lie about it whereas Webster is muting it with the Congress and building good relations and by having a little bit better judgment he may actually accomplish more in the long run and it may be harder for us to crack it open John can you go into some more detail on this blackmail theme of how Bush might be subject to blackmail because of his involvement in the CIA and in other activities during the Reagan administration what would be an example of this and how would such blackmail work well let's go into the most obvious case that we know of the one that we have the best documented so far and this is this black eagle thing that was started in an 82 essentially in a reversal of roles the CI is actually created to give the White House and the executive plausible deniability so they can keep clean and if the CI does something wrong can you know what we didn't know about it and they can fire the CIA's director William Casey reversed this policy and it was actually quite clever in in retrospect an iran-contra thing he initiated the iran-contra thing but he managed to have Ronald Reagan in the White House take the heat for it he ran it through Oliver North so it became a political thing whereas the CIA was

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political thing whereas the CIA was clearly under the thumb of the Congress or should have been illegally was but he also this black eagle operation of delivering arms to the to the Contras he got George Bush to front for that to use the vice president's office to front for that and Bush was a very activist vice president running this this this thing they had on anti-terrorism supposedly which is of course 1984 double speak for you know running terrorist activities smuggling arms and through that operation they began to work through Panama and the planes flying through Panama and Noriega gave them access to the air strips that they needed and immediately began working the other end of the line through the Medellin using the same black eagle planes to fly drugs up here into the United States and Bush was his office was was cutting was running this thing now obviously they tried to maintain what I thought was a very thin implausible deniability of having Don Gregg running the thing right out of George Bush's office with his his assistant what's his name Samuel Watson and then Felix Rodriguez down in El Salvador and then a network that went throughout planes flying throughout southern air transport involved their own airplanes involved and and yet then the only deniability was Greg saying well I never told the vice president about all of these things which is utterly impossible it is

not within the realm of human with unless the person were a Ronald Reagan and even then he would have had to have known what what Gregg was doing can you give us a little background on Gregg the fact that he and Bush had been together buddies for a long time yeah great with uh not original I think he came into the CI and fifty-one a graduate of Williams

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CI and fifty-one a graduate of Williams College at the height you know that was getting into the the McCarthy era the height of conservatism for the Korean War a very very conservative era and and he joined and and had what you know was ultimately tremendously successful career in fact I thought that Bush would wind up appointing him as a CI director and instead he's gone with William Webster the guy had to do with the destabilization of Cuba in the 60s he wound up in Vietnam in Military Region three in nineteen seventy and that's the you know where I was except I didn't overlap with him but I got there just after he had left so there were a lot of people were talking about him and about Felix Rodriguez who was one of his favored operatives in the height of the Phoenix program and she Ackley was his boss wasn't him and Shaklee was the boss so you see the same group moving in with George Bush then in the basement of the White House Y next door to Oliver North - factly Shaklee wasn't yeah - Shockley who had been squeezed up but then but I was still in operation and involved in a lot of these well I'm sure the old boy thing works so that he was in contact with them but don't ever forget that these people fight a lot there they are as bad as people in the peace movement about twelve literally you remember when Black Eagle eventually fell apart and then the the enterprise kind of became apart Oliver North and Felix Rodriguez were at each other's throats and he's are two very volatile unstable dangerous men who couldn't get along you remember the the incident that cited in the foreign policy fall 88 issue that black eagle was when the CIA operatives it doesn't name them and

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operatives it doesn't name them and Israeli operatives drew their pistols on each other this was 1985 85 and they were about to start blasting each other away and the senior head said everybody cool they just you know slowed down and prevailed and got everybody put their guns back and at the same time the Pollard case was breaking and the US was going to prosecute the powers in Israel didn't appreciate that so it was falling for Israel and against the United States and Canon verify something may argue through with it what you know there's so much of this material yeah I'm a bit confused now Oliver North office was next door to George Bush and Donald Gregg's in the bottom of the White House that I understand it now were they working together or as I've heard some people say they actually had two separate arms running and drug smuggling operations going or were they separately coordinated well you know they have done everything they could alpha skate if you will and confuse the issue north admitted that he was he met with Bush on many occasions but he minimized the cooperation the the way I see it is there were a number of different offices and people did have different roles to play and there were different power lines working and don't ever forget that there is a just a norm of every presidency since I've been around anyway is a lot of intense competitiveness I mean people they're really ruthless everybody's jockeying for position endlessly inside the White House and the vice president's office if he has any power so so North was definitely part of the same machinery he was definitely cooperating with George Bush as Bush was cooperating with Casey but at the same time North was definitely beating his own drum and Tooting his own horn and flying around the world grandstanding and setting is

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the world grandstanding and setting is they were not what you know it was not a disciplined unit like one CIA office would be or or one Marine Division would be a won one of your Navy ships would be and these are a lot of competing people who are in the same ideology the same administration and and moving in the same direction what's a naval in touch the way that the Rolling Stone told this story in their November third essay on this dirty secrets of George Bush the Black Eagle operation that Bush Rodriguez and Gregg we're running

was coming apart because of this rupture with the Israelis and also because they found out Noriega was running so many drugs that this was threatening the integrity of the operation so North began this other enterprise literally called the enterprise with Richard Secord and Hakim and these people to bring arms down to the Contras but Secord had trouble getting it off so that Felix Rodriguez began another operation and once Secord got his groin they've shut down the operation with Rodriguez's Cuban friends who lost a lot of money in this and very angry and this began the tension between Rodriguez and Bush and the Secord North group and eventually the tensions there sort of exploded and Bush was the guy supposedly trying to hold everything together that when these other guys North and Rodriguez were each other's throats Bush was the guy that had to smooth things over so again he played a major role in carrying out these operations according at least to these this Rolling Stone story that seemed fairly well documented no I endorse it the way the way you describe it is the way I have I have read it myself very much that in fact the one the original outfit they had built this giant warehouse called the arms supermarket and stocked it with arms which is

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and stocked it with arms which is supposed to be bought by the Contras with US taxpayers dollars of the private enterprise dollars and and at the time that that North pulled away from that that enterprise to start the enterprise they had that thing stocked with 18 million dollars worth of arms now you know arms is a cash for business and this cash had to come from the Medellin Colombian cocaine cartel so there was drug money that they had been working with that it stocked this warehouse counting on selling the arms to the to the enterprise small e to that and then North did break away at the point where he saw that thing apparently as getting out of control as being too explosive that was not don't anyone misunderstand that he was morally troubled by working with people who were smuggling drugs he had known for years these people were smuggling drugs but as you noted the volume of it was getting so high that he saw on an earthquake coming and actually moved there also was undoubtedly part of his ego power play power struggle at the level of him in Rodriguez at the level perhaps of him and and a Gregg during this whole time George Bush was supervisor he was control of the drug anti-drug program in the United States not just the propaganda bit you know just say no but great operand and very expensive operation to interdict drugs and to keep them from coming into the United States so it was a perfect circle not only from the propaganda point of view because Bush could be said to be the guy who is keeping it from coming in but on the covert aspect he could make sure that this stuff came in undetected and yet none of these stories came out during the election campaign when I left

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during the election campaign when I left for Europe on August 217 during the Republican convention Dukakis was 10 or 15 points ahead Bush had just nominated Quayle chosen Quayle as vice president that looked like it was going to be a self-destruct operation and when I came back a month later Bush was 10 points ahead what do you make of this how do you analyze Bush's turning things around and winning the presidency what was involved in is well one just quick observation is there a false put some false pooling in the summer after the Democratic convention the Democrats always look better they've gotten a lot of publicity and then a month later after the Republican convention they have a surge back and so it's sometime about the 1st of September where the polls I think I forget the figure but it's something like nine times out of ten the one who is leading on the 1st of September wins so it's stabilized by the end of August and in fact by the end of August Bush was ahead again the Quayle thing was a heavy hit a Bush it one might call it a major blunder but since he succeeded we all reflected on that lot his choice of Quayle as I see it was twofold he had to pick someone who would make him look like a giant and that was not easy to do if he picked a Bob Dole for example someone who knew knew more and had a stronger personality he would have all kinds of problems he also in my opinion and this is an analysts opinion you know this is not based on any hard quotes or anything very subjective but he also had to pick someone who was bought into the Iran-contra scandal and Quayle was he was the senator from Indiana and Indiana's the state that John Hull you know came from who was the man who had the ranch in Costa Rica from which all

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the ranch in Costa Rica from which all the drug smuggling and the arms you know from the southern side of the contra thing had been run and it turns out as we dug up in August and found out it that this young man working for quail introduced Hall to Oliver North originally and that young man's name was Robert Owens and so Quayle Owens was working hard or quail when he introduced John Hull oh yes when he introduced John Holt Oliver North and gave them that whole option which evolved into the enterprise and and the whole scandal that's incredible the whole enter all of this yes enter can even quail I mean this is amazing what to go back this is a very complicated thing but I think we can sort it out I don't think British dared to have someone in office who was clean of the Iran-Contra thing like Dole who could benefit from an impeachment so he needed someone that would be tainted enough with the Iran-Contra that they would be forced to resign at the same time they would be impeached with him who could not possibly benefit from his impeachment he needed to create a situation for that himself where the establishment couldn't shunt him aside and put in a strong figure like Dole or Howard Baker who would be very acceptable to the public and to the establishment right and that's that's where I work well that's where Quayle came and that Barbara Honegger who is not the world's greatest analyst but she certainly has a lot of fire and imagination and she coined the phrase that he was quail with Bush's impeachment insurance who is she teller Honaker worked for the Bush Reagan campaign in 1980 and then quit and in in a volatile protest of their activities

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a volatile protest of their activities and has made a crusade out of exposing the October Surprise Minaj will get into this and this is one of the stories that was covered over by the mainstream media was her initial story well her initial story was that the Reagan Bush campaign William Casey the Reagan Bush campaign had made a deal with the Iranians to keep the Embassy hostage through the elections and then another 76 days so that Carter wouldn't even get credit for the release you know so that Reagan would get the full credit for their release and they were in fact released two hours after he was sworn in which is enough time for the word to get back to Iran that he was in fact president and then he you know they were the hostages were released they were actually held at the airport waiting for this confirmation and then to go back to our other thing we were working here is why didn't Dukakis take Bush's head off that stuff which he could have got no as you can see the television commercials are shows in our interview five-minute segments showing the Noriega link the black eagle the whole stuff we had all of this and we were definitely trying to feed it to them and what what what we got back from them was from the Dukakis caucus and we got inside we got we got we got the movie cover up delivered to them we got the movie the PBS Frontline show guns drugs and the CI delivered to them we got in to see them some of the people in a disorganized group of scholars researching this thing and we we got from them a resistance they they they essentially and feedback as one of the the senior Dukakis people told Jim Driscoll who's in our community with the Americas peace test and Nevada that John Stock pulls facts are all screwed up and and I you know I immediately what facts what is it

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immediately what facts what is it because I consider myself if not an academic nevertheless a scholarly these things and so what facts because I want to check them out because if I am scrap I don't you know I don't and they wouldn't give us any details but they just rejected the stuff out of hand now if you permit me just very quickly to create a scenario or give you my analysis what happened and we note the scandal broke or was broken by the establishment in November of '86 Iran-Contra scandal and it led to a dismantling of the Reagan White House and then later they gave him his credibility back with the INF agreement now in the winter of 1987 the the George Bush was written up by every major columnist as being out of business he was finished politically they were saying this openly George Will was writing columns that the Republican Party was out the Democrats were clearly going to win the next and they were all writing that George Bush could not survive the Iran-Contra scandal and this is because they including the conservative columnist and the establishment press had this material back then right and they knew about George Bush's involvement in all of this stuff and the scandal was breaking and they did not believe that he could survive right by the spring

he had survived to the point battling as i as i put it to stay out of jail he had hung in there he didn't resign a retire and they began to wonder what the u.s. of people's tolerance was of this scandal how much it would stick then they engineered the iran-contra hearings in the summer which were carefully orchestrated by dannion way the democrat in cooperation with the other democrats Cohen and Mitchell for example wrote the book men of zeal which

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example wrote the book men of zeal which they profess to be an expose abide the scenes but they do not in fact expose it's a continuation of the cover-up they do not for example discuss their resistance at having allowing the Black Eagle stuff to be investigated and they're their own resistance of having the George Bush drug linkage investigated so the committee drew a line and said we won't investigate beyond this line so they gave the nation the appearance of an airing and they did not in fact probe into the things that would have led them into the impeachment of George Bush and this had a catharsis effect on the nation and then we get into the the fall and then the winter of 88 and then the spring and there's still a debate going on in public remember dan Rather who tried to nail Bush he tried to break this stuff in a CBS interview and what happened was the establishment came down on him and said no we you know we're not going to go after George Bush until eventually in the summer of 88 when we were once again trying to break this Bush eventually was able to laugh at the cameras at the Republican convention because we had journalists I mean we had found journalists who would ask the questions who went up on national television and said what about the iran-contra thing and he just laughed at them and said I'm not even going to answer those questions anymore the nation doesn't care about the iran-contra scandal that is history I've answered those questions forget it don't ask anymore now in the meantime this establishment this party that we have the single party state this fraternity that runs this country that has two chapters a Republican and a Democrat one a little bit more liberal than the other one one more conservative representing them the big business interests more directly that's the Republicans in terms of their interests that's the 18 but they always have the b-team that they can run out a Jimmy Carter when Richard Nixon makes the nation too angry or the nation gets too

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nation too angry or the nation gets too riled at the Vietnam War or something like that this is where they produced Michael Dukakis he's a team player to the establishment in order to be accepted as a presidential candidate he did homage to the to the arms race he said eventually that he would give humanitarian aid to the Contras he would consider it he said definitely he would give military aid to El Salvador which means he bought into all the principles of the covert secret government of the covert operations of the covert manipulation of the world he was singing another song when he was trying to get the Democratic nomination that's right before his background was progressive but he he bought it they screened him into the system they groomed him into the system he was advised that he could run but if he would so what he was there is he if the nation had clung had its outraged had been sufficient over the iran-contra scandal they had Dukakis standing by the b-team to their interest and he would give them some grief by spending some money on housing and on medical insurance for people and things like that which is not their choice of the way to invest the money they want to invest it in missiles and things where they make greater profits but he would support the arms race and he would support the CIA and the corporate establishment the National Security States activities but then they realized they did not have to go with the b-team the people didn't care they didn't have to give the nation a beat so they went ahead and went with the 18 which was George Bush ie they concluded eventually that they could Teflon eyes Bush despite all of this incredible activity and selling to the nation and they did why though did Dukakis as the B team not go after Bush more aggressively because he's a member of the team he's a member of the fraternity why did Danny no way they had they had Ronald Reagan and George Bush by the short hairs they could have impeached them and they

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they could have impeached them and they didn't because they couldn't impeach a popular president like Reagan and Bush without losing control the public trust see this gets back into the Howard Zinn thesis that the American Revolution occurred when the rich white people rich white males over here wanted to take power away from the same element in England and they engineered a deal with the people whereby they would give more freedom to the people than they had under the monarchy or the colony but nevertheless the rich white males would retain control and and this this dynamic relationship we don't have a democracy we do not even to this day a vote for the president we vote for electors who select the president in addition to which this two-party system we've evolved gives them further control because even the selection of the candidates it's done by about 50% vote a popular vote through the primaries and about 50% through the frozen delegates of the hard delegates of the super-delegates who were party hacks who control you know the party machinery controlling ultimately who gets nominated this is why Pat Schroeder gave it a run and dropped out is because her traveling and consulting with the super-delegates the frozen delegates the power structure of the party she was told she would not be permitted to win whatever happened you know in the popular side of things and then once that was decided you know the money was not available to her now this system as it and as it continued for 200 years is a tenuous relationship in which the people who own the country the people on the foot you know who the Federal Reserve Board the people who manage the money and and the moneyed interests the strength of the capitalist system these people know that they're writing a

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people know that they're writing a potentially rebellious horse and the American people whose interests are not being fully served myth has to be maintained to make this thing run and it's a constant balance of what do they have to give the people to keep them onboard the system and at what point are they going to lose the system you read the history through Zen's eyes of the United States or the Grameen book on the history of violence in the United States and you see that every time the people have become angry enough the system has yielded to them the labor struggles at the turn of the century for example the Vietnam War in civil rights days when blacks rose up in the country with a massive boycott and it began to really hurt the economic interests and start the small businesses in the ghettos white business wasn't Detroit and Watts and 14th Street in Washington and you know when when a nation when the system was breaking apart the establishment yielded every time and the system self-destructed the cynicism of the Reagan years in which one of the more dramatic transfers of wealth from the poor to the rich occurred you know was orchestrated by Ronald Reagan through the arms race the two trillion dollars in arms the mechanisms that he set up for him that rigging of the taxes where he could say taxes had been cut when they had been redistributed to hurt the middle class and poor more this thing came to a head under the Iran-Contra scandal and once again the establishment was faced in in the winter of 87 they were saying you know we've had it the people the people have had it and we're going to have to give them the Democrats for a while and they came up eventually with with what was to them a brilliant the perfect candidate was Dukakis who had a reputation of clean after the corruption of the Reagan years who had a reputation of being

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years who had a reputation of being somewhat of a populist as Jimmy Carter did who could be sold to as a cleansing sort of as here you know we sympathize here you can have your president for a while the truth is that Jimmy Carter had foisted upon him is a big Rosinski you know it was an utter fastest in his policies to control the national security decisions so Carter's human rights stuff couldn't go too far and he wound up setting in motion the arms build-up that eventually evolved and the Reagan arms buildup which is the biggest peacetime buildup in the history of the biggest buildup in the arms buildup in the history of the world into the Bush camp and during this campaign indeed and and of course that's part of the October the election held hostage the Playboy article brings that out very clearly is that having put he doesn't get into there having put a Carter in office to placate the people after Nixon after Vietnam after the civil rights struggle that then gets into that but they're taking it up at the time of at the end of the Carter era era where two things had happened one is the Federal Reserve Board cooked the economy and so we had runaway inflation which would scare people you could feel it you could taste it and the newspapers talked about it every day and blamed it on

Carter and when when he doesn't control the stuff the Federal Reserve Board does and then the other thing was the national security establishment went after him with a passion the CIA operatives cooperating with Bush Reagan during the presidential campaign of 1980 the Pentagon cooperating MacFarlane their Marine officer working on the State Department advising but having committed himself to the bush side all of these these tendrils go back to the security establishment saying okay we've given them Carter for four years now let's get

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them Carter for four years now let's get back to work and they got they got Reagan in there to summarize they got Reagan in there he eventually self-destructed our the system self-destructed under his watch they thought they were going to have to give us dukakis to placate the people and then they found that the people simply don't care enough the people simply aren't vigilant enough of their own interest to care enough about this monumental corruption from George pushin and the people around him and they were able to continue with the 18 in office with George Bush to extend and continue the policies of Ronald Reagan to exploit the nation and to keep in lockstep with the drug runners not to mention the military machinery I thank you that's an excellent analysis of how the establishment would view the two different candidates and why they would then decide that they could pull behind bush and go with what you call the 18 again it still doesn't completely explain why the be team that is Dukakis and the Democrats didn't fight harder for the president he didn't go after bush more aggressively on this Noriega drugs contra drugs the Iran arms deals their whole relationships of Bush and Reagan the ayatollahs why didn't Dukakis and the Democrats use these issues to probably win the election if they could have publicized them there was the negative campaign of Bush against Dukakis that many people think helped win it for Bush couldn't Dukakis have done an honest-campaign against bush telling the actual truth about bush and why didn't I still have trouble of course of course the Reagan administration is the most corrupt in the history of the country they've had almost 200 people either indicted or in jail for corruption and my administration and the Democrats didn't go after this I've mentioned here why well this again gets back to the decision they made I mean we can only

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decision they made I mean we can only fight what they did and then it speaks for itself then anyway running this committee a Democrat you know made it a joint thing and then the Democrats shut up and let the Republicans use it as a forum to advance the national security state the CIA's activities the contra program instead of exposing the corruption that's where the decision was made Dukakis is just another member of the team whatever economic miracle supposedly occurred in Massachusetts under his governorship was done in great part with defense expenditures he is bought into the system he's a member of the team with the establishment as as we know as we've observed I remember talking to les Kurt's about this when he was developing the draft of his book the the the nuclear cage and we were talking about the the military-industrial the Iron Triangle the military-industrial complex the defense corporations the Pentagon and the Congress and then we took it a step further of course it includes the media as everyone well knows the point of alternative views is that the media is owned literally by the same people who own that you know the Defense corporations but then we took it a step further it's not even a quadrangle it's it's a pentad or a pentagon because you also have the universities the educational system in which the defense corporations and the Pentagon are careful to invest heavily 70% of some of these big universities budgets come from from defense you know money so the professor's are paid for the salaries are paid for by the defense complex and so they bought into the system so you have that power structure and control and that power structure determined not to let the system be destroyed or be weakened even at the price of their own let me put it this way Jimmy Carter for example he

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way Jimmy Carter for example he demonstrated this this what I would call misdirected loyalty after the 1980 thing he did not go public and and protest the iran-contra deal he did not protest it in October when he had these reports coming in because he didn't want to destroy the system of which he was part to go back to another era in 1960 Richard Nixon lost to John Kennedy in a very close election which turned in part on mayor Daly in Chicago counting every grave in Chicago twice now this scandal was known at the time Nixon didn't mention it until God knows 20 years later he eventually said he couldn't he couldn't make an issue out without destroying the credibility of the presidential election process and he wanted to have another shot at the presidency which again if which he got and became president if he had destroyed or attacked the system if he had exposed that scandal it would have destroyed perhaps it wouldn't take all that much to lead the American people to have a big mental breakthrough and demand a change in the system perhaps in the direction of a parliamentary system where we could at the time of an iran-contra scandal there would be forced a vote of confidence and Reagan certainly would have been out and in in December of 8086 he would have been out my studies on the power structure in the mass media this is the main thing they try to keep from the American public how the economic and political system really works because the Americans wouldn't like that at all if they really they really knew saw how scared the establishment dodged the bullet how scared they got in the end the Jackson run at the presidency this last time because Jackson is the first national prominent figure since I can remember who has who has achieved prominence and represents the interests of the people pretty directly and the the

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pretty directly and the the manipulations they had to go through to keep him from getting a position of of in fact power just to cite one example of how far they will go we we this this loose Association of exes from the national security we were flying to Iowa to do a hearing to try to force the candidates to tell us their policies this by at that point there were a lot of candidates and on the plane the day we went up there the New York Times had a big piece on where the polls put all the candidates at that time in Iowa and it had it had Simon I think was leading and a big front-page article and and then a long discussion Simon in Dukakis and the other and then you went to page three for the bigger article the details and it turns out Jesse Jackson was running a very close second it was sort of like 33 to 31 but his name was not mentioned on the front page of the New York Times all the time inside they showed the polls but on the front page they didn't want him to have the name recognition well The Times and all the mainstream media pretty much did a blackout on the excuse the metaphor on the Jackson campaign until the Super Tuesday primaries were he won and then he became a head actually after the Michigan primaries he was the front-runner and then they had to give some attention to Jackson and they tried to make it negative and then Dukakis regained the momentum in the Pennsylvania New York primaries the pinellas probably the only hope looking back the party machinery shifted gears at that time scared because Jackson was leading and there was a chance that the people would really get excited about his thing and that 50% control asserted itself the party machinery asserted itself and Jackson was was pushed down and Dukakis was run in instead they did it by calling Jackson a radical they said it's not racial we have no problem

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said it's not racial we have no problem with the skin color although there would be some people in the South who wouldn't vote for him but he's a radical meaning he doesn't support the establishment and they got that word out to the party too you know to the party hacks throughout the nation and the result is that Jackson's yeah I've been wishing and hoping but like what you said that Jackson would split off and give us a third party and with with the people that I believe would follow him we might be able to force onto the two-party system a viable third party and then we could you know throw our block of votes to the right or the left depending on who would give us the most real concessions I don't think Jackson will ever get these concessions from the Democratic Party which is where he's trying to notice that the election night I flipped on one channel I think it was NBC and the analyst was saying well the reason the caucus lost was because Jackson spoke out for him and then I immediately turned to the next channel which was ABC and that pendant was saying well the reason he lost was because Jackson refused to support Jackson was traveling

all over the country literally every day campaigning you know ten things a day he was doing or you know many this was followed up I saw it a big Newsweek article analyzing the election and it said well they were looking at the prospects for the future and they said the only thing the Democrats can do is to go with people like Gary Robb who are conservatives so that the Democrats can move to the right they said the worst thing they could do would be go Jesse Jackson because it would tear apart the Democratic Party and destroy it election with the centrist liberals like Mondale and Dukakis but you're talking about the Democrats in there another problem which the Democrats had and that is they went lockstep right along with Reagan and Reaganomics and providing money for the Contras arms bill absolutely see the arms build-up for example the money the power

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for example the money the power structure that keeps the Democrats in office the ones that are in office the this is Reaganomics paid off enormous Lee for them now that you do get into a lot of individual struggles and and infighting and and you know the system it isn't a monolithic it isn't the the controllers of the country being in lockstep not at all some of them actually jump out of the windows of their office buildings in New York committing suicide on occasion it's there's a lot of tugging and pulling but nevertheless when the chips are down the establishment will will not go for the jugular vein their own jugular vein if you will they will cooperate in a cover-up Howard Baker you know going in to straighten out the Reagan White House thereby perhaps forever abandoning his shot at the presidency Nixon you know refusing to expose the scandal Jimmy Carter refusing to expose the scandal caucus I do talk is refusing to expose the scandal Lyndon Johnson's behavior after they'd killed John Kennedy the Warren Commission to cover up you know let's get back to business as usual let's calm the nation down let's not take the the scab off the wound you know and let the people see let's let's paper it over and cover it up put a bandage on it and get on with business as usual what's at stake is the viability of the system for them for them so to draw a conclusion to wrap up our discussion today it would seem that we really can't expect from the Democrats or the media any real exposures of the scandals and corruption of the system any real important efforts to change or reform or transform the system there really depends on the people that we're the only active agents of change that it depends on alternative media alternative socially critical progressive researchers to dig this dirt up that this is sort of our obligation that if change is going to happen it's not going

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change is going to happen it's not going to come from the Democratic Party it's not going to come from the media can only come from the people so that our obligation during the Bush years is to be critical vigilant and militant in trying to smoke out all of these scandals and get rid of bush and force the system to change that that's the only way change comes about it that's the end of this alternative use glad we could share it with you for more information on the American power structure read the people's history of the United States by Howard Zinn or who rules America now by William Dom Hoff additionally the u.s. power structure and the mass media by Frank Morrow and les Kurtz new book the nuclear cage we'd like to thank Brian Lynch who set up the set and was our director for our interview and Austin community television AC TV we use their equipment alternative views is a production of the alternative Information Network p.o box 7279 austin texas seven eight seven one three if you have any questions or comments about alternative views wherever it may be shown please write to us at this address we got a lot of very nice letters from people out of the country you tell us much the program means to them and if it is meaningful to you will let us know goodbye

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